



NEWS RELEASE

Senator Alan Lowenthal

STATE CAPITOL: ROOM 3048 • SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 • 916/445-6447 • 916/327-9113 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE: 115 PINE AVENUE • SUITE 430 • LONG BEACH, CA 90802 • 562/495-4766 • 562/495-1976 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE: 11640 PARAMOUNT BLVD. • PARAMOUNT, CA 90723 • 562/529-6659 • 562/529-6662 FAX

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 16, 2005

Contact: John Casey
(916) 651-4027

Lowenthal Slows Goods Movement Air Quality Initiative

(Sacramento)— Encouraged by recent talks with the goods movement industry and the Governor's office, Senator Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), decided to hold SB 760 in the Assembly. "I am holding **SB 760** in the Assembly now in the hope we can work something out with the Administration," stated Senator Lowenthal. "I believe that I could move this bill to the Governor this year, however with the Governor's recent work on Goods Movement issues, I think a more collaborative proposal can be worked out, it will just take a few more months."

SB 760 would impose a fee on containers transported through the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. The fee would go to programs that would improve air quality, strengthen port security and improve the transportation infrastructure by funding improvements to move more cargo by rail.

"I have always contended that the best solutions to a problem should involve all parties that would be affected," said Lowenthal. "The problem is clear and solutions are within our reach. I am confident that given more time we will find the correct answers to this crisis. The public has spoken and they expect us to act."

Earlier this summer the Public Policy Institute of California released survey results showing that air pollution is the most important environmental issue facing the state. Additionally, the survey found that 70% of Californians support tougher air pollution standards on ships, trucks and trains that transport freight and cargo, even if this made it more costly for these businesses to operate. This belief was consistent throughout all regions of the state from the Central Valley to the Inland Empire and consistent among political party affiliations as well.

SB 760 is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, where it will be heard next year.

###

Representing the 27th Senate District: Artesia, Avalon, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Lynwood, Paramount, Signal hill, South Gate, Florence-Graham and Willowbrook.

